

This is Dave Fronzuto, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Town of Nantucket

Here is the Latest update on the storm situation from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency: A winter storm developing over the Tennessee Valley today will track off the mid-Atlantic coast tonight and Saturday. This winter storm will intensify rapidly once it heads off the coast south of Long Island. There still remains some uncertainty with the exact track; a slight shift of 30-50 miles northward may mean higher snowfall totals, particularly in southeastern Massachusetts. Anyone traveling in the next 24-36 hours should monitor later forecasts and be prepared to modify travel plans should winter weather develop.

#### WATCHES/WARNINGS:

A Winter Storm Watch has been issued for the south coast of Massachusetts including Cape Cod and Nantucket from Saturday morning through Sunday morning. Snow accumulations of 4-7 inches is possible.

A High Wind Warning has been issued for Nantucket from Saturday afternoon through Sunday morning. The strongest winds will occur Saturday afternoon and evening. Nantucket will experience sustained wind speeds of 30-40 mph with gusts 50-60 mph. These winds are capable of downing trees and power lines as well as cause property damage. In addition, the strong winds may result in blowing snow in some areas of the island resulting in poor visibility and obstructed roadways.

High astronomical tides will combine with strong offshore Northeast winds to yield a risk of minor to moderate flooding on the east facing beaches and Nantucket Harbor. The most vulnerable tide cycle appears

to be the late Sunday morning high tide at 12:15 pm where the tide is predicted to be 1.5-2.0 ft. over normal high tide. Flooding of Easy Street, Lower Broad Street, Brant Point, Francis Street and Washington Streets can be expected at this time. Although this storm is significant, Nantucket Emergency Managers do not expect the waters to rise to the same levels as Winter Storm Juno in 2015.

Town officials have activated the winter storm preparation plan. At this time we do not anticipate that a snow emergency will be declared however we are recommending that residents in low lying areas take precautions to protect their property from potential flooding.

Although a snow emergency is not being declared, residents are requested to remove their vehicles from the public roadways to facilitate plowing of the snow by DPW crews.

The wave barrier at the Children's Beach Boat ramp will be closed at 3:30 pm today.

Although we don't anticipate needing the emergency shelter and will not be opening it at this time, In the event of an extended power outage or unforeseen storm events Nantucket Emergency Management, the Nantucket Fire Department, Nantucket Public Schools and the American Red Cross will open a shelter at the Nantucket High School, 10 Surfside Road.